

## **Roughing It!**

### **Camping in Undesignated Areas**

Camping is permitted on National Forest lands outside of campgrounds and permitted (dispersed) campsites.

While in the backcountry, you will be without the modern conveniences to which you are accustomed. You will be "roughing it" - without even the most basic sanitation facilities. There are no garbage collections and no toilets. You will have to manage without these conveniences.

Disposing of waste and refuse is a most important part of your backcountry experience. Improper disposal of refuse will spoil and pollute these areas. If you handle sanitation properly, you will leave the land clean and attractive for yourself and others to enjoy.

How do you do this? There are right and wrong ways to dispose of wastes in the backcountry. The proven methods of such waste disposal are described below. We ask your cooperation in following them.

The following restrictions apply:

- Your stay is limited to 16 days. After this period, your camping equipment and all persons must move to another site at least one mile away, for an additional stay, not to exceed 16 days.
- On those lakes with dispersed (permitted) campsites on them, you may not set up your campsite within 400 feet of the shoreline anywhere on the lake.
- On those lakes without dispersed campsites on them, or on other bodies of water (streams and rivers), your site cannot be established within 50 feet of the water. You cannot camp at boat launch sites.
- Do not block any roads or restrict access to National Forest lands by others.

**While enjoying undesignated camping on the Hiawatha National Forest, we ask that you also follow these "Leave No Trace" principles, so that these public lands will remain clean and attractive for others to enjoy.**

#### **Campfires:**

**You can have one anywhere in the Forest, EXCEPT Big Island Lake Wilderness area and Grand Island.** (See specific details for campfires in each of these areas!) Dig down to mineral soil, and make sure it is completely out (cold to the touch) before leaving it unattended. Be aware that you are financially responsible if your negligence causes a forest fire.

#### **Backcountry Sanitation**

##### **Human Waste:**

Fortunately, nature has provided in the top 6 or 8 inches of the soil system a "biological disposer" that works to decompose organic material. Keeping this in mind, you should carry with you a small digging tool. A light garden trowel is good.

##### **Garbage and camp trash**

Cans, bottles and aluminum foil don't burn, so please pack these items out when you leave and burn or remove all other trash. And please clean up your campsite completely before you leave!